THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Indian Council of World Affairs was founded in 1943 as a non-official, non-political, and non-profit organisation devoted to the study and research of foreign policy and international affairs. Under the auspices of the Council, the first Asian Relations Conference was held in New Delhi in March 1947. In April 1997, the Council organised the Asia-Pacific Conference in new Delhi to mark the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Asian Relations Conference. The Council continues to be engaged in organising events linked to foreign policy and international affairs.

From time to time Government have received complaints about the unsatisfactory functioning of the Council. Government has been urging the President of ICWA to take steps for constituting a high-powered supervisory/advisory committee with a view to reviewing the whole gamut of the functioning of the Council and to suggest improvements to be brought about. The President of the Council, however, has not taken any concrete steps in this regard.

The Indian Council of World Affairs is an autonomous body registered with the Registrar of Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. As such, Government have no direct or indirect administrative control over the functioning of the Council. The Ministry of External Affairs has not given any financial assistance to the Council since 1985.

Export of processed foods and fruits

1739. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps, if any, taken by Government during the last five years to boost export of processed foods and fruits etc. from India; and

(b) what has been the achievement level in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Government is providing financial assistance to exporters, growers, cooperatives societies and food processing units for development of infrastructure facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of prc-cooling/storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems and setting up/cxpansion/modcrnisation of food processing units. The Government is also arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important International Fairs and Exhibitions. Special efforts are being made to improve processing facilities and to implement Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) to meet the quality standards imposed by the European Union and USA. Government also assists in development of data base and dissemination of information.

(b) As per statement.

Statement

Achievement in the export of processed food products

(Quantity in thousand metric tonnes. Value in Rs. crores)

Product		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
		unntity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
PROCESSED FRUITS & VEGETABLE. (mango Pulp, Chutneys etc.)	Picles and Products)	144.32	348.21	193.50	491.59	175.25	473.77
ANIMAL PRODUCTS (Meat, Poultry and Diary		164.10	448.38	183.89	682.58	185.92	803.59

(Quantity in thousand metric tonnes. Value in Rs. crores)

Product	*1994-95*		*1995-96*		*1996-97*	
	Quantity	*Valued*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*
OTHER PROCESSED FOODS (Guar Gum, Cereal Preparations and Alcoholic Beverages etc.)	176.88	415.48	1007.33	1171.97	1324.07	1835.91
CEREALS (Basmati & Non-Basmati Rice).	890.60	1205.57	4914.00	4568.06	2511.96	3172.35
MARINE PRODUCTS	307.30	3575.27	296.27	3501.11	378.19	4121.36

Non-convcntionatenergy sources in north Bihar

1740. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote Non-Conventional Sources of Energy in Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura and Madhubani Districts of North Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details of the schemes formulated for the Districts and the funds allotted for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government propose to promote non-conventional energy sources in the State of Bihar including in the District of Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura and Madhubani.

(b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources does not formulate schemes or allot funds under its various programmes, District-wise. The Ministry* has allocated a target of installation of 500 family type biogas plants and 20,000 improved chulhas, to be set up in the State of Bihar during 1998-99. In addition, the Ministry is also implementing a wide range of other programmes for the promotion of non-conventional energy sources such as Biomass gasification and Briquctting, Solar thermal water heating, Solar photovoltaic home-lighting, lanterns. Water pumping for irrigation and Village level power plants. Grid connected power from Wind energy, Small hydro, Biomass combustion. Bagasse-based Co-generation and Solar photovoltaic energy and energy from Urban and industrial wastes, which cover the whole country including the State of Bihar.

Biomass Assessment Study in Gujarat

1741. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated biomass assessment studies in various parts of Gujarat for setting up biomass power project in the State;

(b) if so, the details and findings thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to tap the potentials of non-conventional energy sources in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Under its Biomass Assessment Programme, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources had during 1996-97 sponsored